

FIG

great talk; but that is ever good for the publick: but he that plots to be the only figure among cypfers, is the decay of a whole age.

As in accounts cyphers and figures pass for real sums, so in human affairs words pass for things themselves. *South's Sermon.*

The horoscope; the diagram of the aspects of the astrological houses.

We do not know what's brought to pass under the profession of fortunetelling: the works by charms, by spells, by the figure, and dawning beyond our element. *Shakespeare.*

He set a figure to discover.

If you were fled to Rye or Dover. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 1.*

Figure flingers and star-gazers pretend to foretell the fortunes of kingdoms, and have no foresight in what concerns themselves.

10. [In theology.] Type representative.

Who was the figure of him that is to come. *Romans.*

11. [In rhetoric.] Any mode of speaking in which words are deformed from their literal and primitive sense. In strict acceptance, the change of a word is a trope, and any affection of a sentence a figure; but they are generally confounded by the exactest writers.

12. [In grammar.] Any deviation from the rules of analogy or syntax.

To FIGURE. *v. a.* [figure, Latin.]

1. To form into any determinate shape.

Trees and herbs, in the growing forth of their boughs and branches, are not figured, and keep no order.

2. To show by a corporeal resemblance: as in picture or statuary.

Arachne figur'd how Jove did abuse

Europe like a bull, and on his back

Her through the sea did bear; so lively seen,

That it true sea, and true bull ye would ween.

3. To cover or adorn with figures.

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads,

My gorgeous palace for a hermitage,

My gay apparel for an almsman's gown,

My figur'd goblets for a dish of wood.

4. To diversify; to variegate with adventitious forms or matter.

But this effusion of such manly drops,

Startle mine eyes, and makes me more amaz'd

Than had I seen the vaulty top of heav'n

Figur'd quite o'er with burning meteors.

5. To represent by a typical or figurative resemblance.

When sacraments are said to be visible signs of invisible grace, we thereby conceive how grace is indeed the very end for which these heavenly mysteries were instituted; and the matter whereof they consist is such as signifieth, figureth, and representeth their end.

6. To image in the mind.

None that feels sensibly the decays of age, and his life wearing off, can figure to himself those imaginary charms in riches and praise, that men are apt to do in the warmth of their blood.

FIL

FIGWORT. *n. f.* [fig and wort.] A plant.

It hath an anomalous flower, consisting of one leaf, gaping at both sides, and generally globular, cut as it were into two lips, under the upper one of which are two small leaves. *Mith.*

FILACEOUS. *adj.* [from filum, Lat.] Consisting of threads; composed of threads.

They make cables of the bark of lime-trees: it is the stalk that maketh the filaceous matter commonly, and sometimes the down that groweth above.

FILACER. *n. f.* [filaceus, low Lat. filum.] An officer in the Common Pleas, so called because he files those writs whereon he makes process. There are fourteen of them in their several divisions and counties: they make out all original process, as well real as personal and mixt.

FILAMENT. *n. f.* [filament, Fr. filamenta, Latin.] A slender thread; a body slender and long like a thread.

The effluvium passing out in a smaller thread, and more enlightened filament, it stirrith the bodies interposed. *Bacon's Natural History.*

The lungs of consumptives have been consumed, nothing remaining but the ambient membrane, and a number of withered veins and filaments.

The ever-rolling orb's impulsive ray

On the next threads and filaments does bear,

Which form the springy texture of the air

And those fill strike the next, 'till to the light

The quick vibration propagates the light. *Blackm. Creation.*

The dung of horses is nothing but the filaments of the hay, and as such combustible.

FILBERT. *n. f.* [This is derived by Junius and Skinner from the long beards or hanks, as corrupted from full beard, or full of beard. It probably had its name, like many other fruits, from some one that introduced or cultivated it; and is therefore corrupted from Filbert or Filbert, the name of him who brought it hither.] A fine hazel nut with a thin shell.

In August comes fruit of all sorts; as plumbs, pears, apricots, barbaries, filberts, muskmelons, monkhoods of all colours.

Thou hast a brain, such as it is indeed!

On what else should thy worm of fancy feed?

Yet in a filbert I have often known

Maggots survive, when all the kernel's gone.

7. To FILCH. *v. a.* [A word of uncertain etymology. The French word filer, from which some derive it, is of very late production, and therefore cannot be its original.] To steal; to take by theft; to pilfer; to pilage; to rob; to take by robbery. It is usually spoken of petty thefts.

He shall find his wealth wonderfully enlarged by keeping his cattle in inclosures, where they shall always have late being, that none are continually filched and stolen.

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FIL

4. A line of soldiers ranged one behind another.

Those goodly eyes,

That o'er the files and musters of the war

Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn

Upon a tawny front. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*

5. [peol, Saxon; vijle, Dutch.] An instrument to rub down prominences.

The rough or coarse-toothed file, if it be large, is called a rubber, and is to take off the unevenness of your work which the hammer made in the forging: the bastard-toothed file is to take out of your work the deep cuts, or file-strokes, the rough file made: the fine-toothed file is to take out the cuts, or file-strokes, the bastard file made; and the smooth file is to take out those cuts, or file-strokes, that the fine file made.

Yet they had a file for the matts and for the coulters.

The smiths and armourers on palfreys ride,

Files in their hands and hammers at their side,

And nails for loosen'd spears, and thongs for shields provide.

6. To FILE. *v. n.* [file and cutter.] A maker of files.

Gad-steele is a tough sort of steel: filecutters use it to make their chisels, with which they cut their files.

7. To FILE. *v. n.* [from filum, a thread.]

1. To string upon a thread or wire. Whence to file a tile is to offer it in its order to the notice of the judge.

2. [from peolan, Saxon.] To cut with a file.

3. They which would file away most from the largeness of that offer, do in more sparing terms acknowledge little less.

His humour is lofty, his discourse peremptory, his tongue filed, and his eye ambitious.

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The earth is filled with violence through them. *Gen. vi. 13.*

2. To store abundantly.

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. *Gen.*

3. To satisfy; to content.

Nothing but the supreme and absolute Infinite can adequately fill and super-abundantly satisfy the infinite desires of intelligent beings.

4. To glut; to surfeit.

Thou art going to lord Timon's feast.

5. To FILL out. To pour out liquor for drink.

6. To FILL out. To extend by something contained.

7. To FILL up. [Up is often used without much addition to the force of the verb.] To make full.

8. To FILL up. To supply.

9. To FILL up. To occupy by bulk.

10. To FILL up. To engage; to employ.

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